

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A composition which includes at least the components A, B, C and D,  
where component A is either a sulfonate of the formula (I)

10  $R^1 R^2 C - CR^1 R^2 - (-CR^1 R^2 -)_n - R^1$  (I)  
where n is from 0 to 8, any  $R^1$  is independently of the others hydrogen, an alkyl radical of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted phenyl radical or a phenyl radical substituted by a radical of the formula  $-SO_3^{\ominus} M^{\oplus}$ , and any  $R^2$  is independently of the others  $R^1$  or a radical of the formula -

15  $SO_3^{\ominus} M^{\oplus}$ , subject to the proviso that component A contains at least one radical of the formula -  $SO_3^{\ominus} M^{\oplus}$  and M is Na, K or  $NH_4$ ,  
or where component A is a polyhydric aliphatic alcohol of 2 to 12 carbon atoms,  
component B is an ethoxylated alcohol of the formula (II) or a mixture of such alcohols

20  $R^3 - O - (-CH_2 CH_2 - O -)_r - X$  (II)  
where r is from 1 to 8,

25 component C is an alkoxylate of the formula (III) or a mixture of such alkoxylates  
 $R^3 - O - (-Z -)_t - X$  (III)  
where t is from 4 to 30, 20 to 80% of all the Z groups present are  $-CH_2 CH_2 - O -$  and 80 to 20%  
30 of all the Z groups present are  $-CHR^4 - CHR^5 - O -$ , where in each case one of  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  is hydrogen and the other is  $CH_3$ ,  $R^3$  in both component B and component C is a linear or branched alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms and 50 to 100% of all the X's present are hydrogen and 0 to 50% of all the X's present are a methyl, ethyl or phenyl radical,  
35 and component D is water.

2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein component A is a sulfonate of the formula (I)  
where at least one of all the R<sup>2</sup> radicals present is -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>⊖</sup>M<sup>⊕</sup>.

3. A composition according to claim 1, wherein component A is a sulfonate of the formula (IV)

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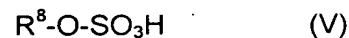


where w is from 1 to 3, one of the R<sup>6</sup> radicals is an unsubstituted phenyl radical and all the  
other R<sup>6</sup> radicals are hydrogen, and one of the R<sup>7</sup> radicals is -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>⊖</sup>M<sup>⊕</sup> and all the other R<sup>7</sup>  
10 radicals are hydrogen.

4. A composition according to claim 1, wherein component A is sodium cumenesulfonate or  
potassium cumenesulfonate.

15 5. A composition according to claim 1, wherein component A is a dihydric or trihydric alcohol of  
4 to 8 carbon atoms.

20 6. A composition according to claim 1, additionally comprising a component E and/or a  
component F, component E being a magnesium salt or a calcium salt and component F being  
an alkali metal salt or ammonium salt of a sulfuric monoester of the formula (V)



where R<sup>8</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl radical of 4 to 12 carbon atoms.

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7. A composition according to claim 1, including per 100 parts by weight of water (component  
D) the following amounts of components A, B, C, E, F:

30 5 to 35 parts by weight of component A,  
10 to 40 parts by weight of component B,  
3 to 30 parts by weight of component C,  
0 to 30 parts by weight of component E,  
0 to 20 parts by weight of component F.

35 8. A process for treating fiber materials, which comprises applying to the fiber materials a  
composition according to claim 1.

9. A process according to claim 8, wherein the fiber materials are 70 to 100% by weight cotton.

10. A process according to claim 8, wherein the composition is applied to the fiber materials in the course of the pretreatment.

5 11. A process according to claim 8, wherein the fiber materials are textile wovens or knits.

*Claim B1*